

**STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD
BOARD MEETING SESSION – DIVISION OF WATER RIGHTS
DECEMBER 1, 2020**

ITEM 3

SUBJECT

CONSIDERATION OF A PROPOSED RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ADDITIONAL CONTRACTING AUTHORITY FOR THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH THE CALIFORNIA WATER COMMISSION TO REIMBURSE THE STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD FOR STAFFING COSTS IN SUPPORT OF ACCELERATED PROCESSING OF WATER RIGHT APPLICATIONS OR PETITIONS FOR PROJECTS PROPOSED UNDER THE WATER STORAGE INVESTMENT PROGRAM

DISCUSSION

In an effort to support recommendations and actions described in the Administration's Water Resilience Portfolio (WRP) Report and the Governor's Executive Order N-10-19, the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) is preparing to expedite the review of water right applications and petitions related to the Water Storage Investment Program (WSIP).

The California Water Commission (CWC) administers the WSIP and has approved conditional funding for eight projects that collectively could increase California's water storage capacity by 4.3 million acre-feet. Many of these projects must obtain water right approvals from the State Water Board prior to moving forward. The State Water Board could receive WSIP water right applications and petitions starting within a year. Expedited processing of these applications and petitions is needed in order to fulfill CWC requirements for funding. The State Water Board does not currently have the capacity to expedite processing of WSIP water right requests without further impacting the existing significant water right application and petition backlogs that were already impacted as a result of the 2012-2016 drought.

The State Water Board is authorized to add up to four positions to provide technical services in support of WRP Report Proposal 7.1 as funded through this reimbursable interagency agreement with the CWC through fiscal year 2024/2025.

Additional contracting authority is required in order to execute this reimbursable interagency agreement between the State Water Board and the CWC for up to five (5) years and no more than \$4,500,000.00.

POLICY ISSUE

Should the State Water Board authorize the Executive Director or designee to authorize this reimbursable contract for a term of up to five years and \$4,500,000.00 to support Proposal 7.1 of the WRP Report and Executive order N-10-19?

FISCAL IMPACT

The full cost of the four positions will be covered by funds administered through CWC specifically tied to WSIP projects. If this resolution is not approved, the State Water Board would rely on existing resources, which would likely impact the necessary processing time for the WSIP projects and/or the existing water right application and petition backlogs.

REGIONAL BOARD IMPACT

None.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Adopt the proposed Resolution